GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:16
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Mahila Samakhya Programme
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of Mahila Samakhya Programme and if so, the details thereof along with the deficiency observed/noticed in the implementation thereof;

(b) the follow-up corrective action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has decided to discontinue the said Programme and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is considering to bring back the said programme again under the Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 16 FOR ANSWER ON 25TH APRIL 2016 REGARDING MAHILA SAMAKHYA PROGRAMME ASKED BY SHRI G. HARI

(a) to (e): Four National Evaluations have been undertaken for Mahila Samakhya (MS) Programme in 1992-1993, 2001, 2004 and 2014. The National Evaluation 2004 recommended that MS expansion must happen on larger scale and speed than was being done. It also recommended to take steps to formalize the involvement of Sanghas/federations in the expansion process as mobilizers and also use their subject skills to identify the issues of concern for poor women. The last National Evaluation of Mahila Samakhya Programme was conducted by Ravi J. Matthai Centre for Educational Innovation of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad in the months of September and October, 2014. The Evaluation noted that despite significant strengths, mainly in the capability to address social injustice, in which future strategies can build, there are weaknesses related to inability to negotiate formal institutional structures and network for economic empowerment. The study also revealed that the use of technology to support the federations has to be improved phenomenally.

The Mahila Samakhya Scheme was approved for continuation on existing norms in 2015-16. Presently, the possibility of the merger of the scheme with National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) of Ministry of Rural Development is being explored with the Ministry of Rural Development.